

COMMISSION CONFERENCE**NOVEMBER 20, 2001****Agenda**

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Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Moore, and Smith

Also Present: City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, and Police Sergeant

I-A – Comprehensive Annexation Report

A discussion was scheduled on proposed annexation bills for the 2002 State Legislative Session. The City Manager said he had originally planned to hold this discussion on December 11, 2001, but due to the accelerated schedule of the Delegation and the Committee, it was necessary to move forward more quickly. He advised that there had been meetings before; one had been held last night; and, another was scheduled for this evening with a final meeting set for December 12, 2001. The City Manager added that this report had been distributed to the Commission in two parts in order to update the figures.

The City Manager noted that Mayor Naugle had requested inclusion of cost allocation figures for the indirect costs associated with governance. He explained it had taken some time for staff to ensure there was a defensible means of establishing those figures. The City Manager acknowledged that the numbers had not been distributed to the Commission until yesterday afternoon.

At 2:09 P.M., Commissioner Moore left the meeting.

The City Manager recalled that past practice had been to take a “one-year look” at whether or not an area proposed for annexation was revenue neutral or not. However, the City Commission had subsequently allowed staff to examine these issues over a five-year period. The City Manager said that this Commission had been solidly behind the concept of the County developing a level playing field so that any area proposed for annexation to any community would receive the same level of commitment from the County.

At 2:11 P.M., Commissioner Moore returned to the meeting.

The City Manager said that full agreement had not yet been reached with the County as to the approach, and some of the nuances that could be negotiated had yet to be finalized. For example, if there was a park within an annexed area, no one yet knew if it would have to become a City park or if it could remain a County regional park, and eligible for continued funding and maintenance by the County. He noted that there were some economies of scale to be realized as well if several areas came into the City together. Another unknown was whether these areas wished to join the City at once or over some period of time.

The City Manager advised that the Delegation had provided some guidelines suggesting that it only wanted comprehensive bills considered in the future, yet proposals had been presented as recently as last night involving single neighborhoods. Therefore, there were still some unknowns, but staff would keep the Commission informed as more information became available.

Mr. Chris Wren, Community Planning Manager, explained that the primary focus of this discussion was what to do in terms of the currently active bills before the Broward County Legislative Delegation Subcommittee on Annexation. He advised that the full Delegation would be meeting on December 12, 2001 for the final disposition of the bills heading toward Tallahassee this year.

Mr. Wren stated that the two bills that had carried Fort Lauderdale's name as a possible option included Broadview Park, with a population of about 6,500. He described the boundaries of the area at the request of Commissioner Smith. Mayor Naugle asked if the neighborhood had named a second city, and Mr. Wren replied that it had named Plantation as a possibility. Commissioner Katz thought the City of North Lauderdale had been interested. Mr. Wren advised that City was not named. Mayor Naugle believed North Lauderdale was interested in the Broadview Estates.

Commissioner Smith asked if Plantation was fighting this. Mr. Wren replied that he had heard last night that some members of the neighborhood had received correspondence from Plantation indicating a reluctance to do any bills this year because more preparation time was necessary. However, he did not know which bills that correspondence addressed. Mayor Naugle thought Plantation would probably lose a little more than the \$1 million Fort Lauderdale would lose. Mr. Wren added that there had been significant dialogue at the first meeting indicating that no bill should go to Tallahassee without a choice or the overall annexation bill for Broward County would "die."

Commissioner Smith asked if the Delegation had taken a position on forced annexation. Mr. Wren was not aware of a position. It was his understanding that the Broward Delegation had a deadline of 2005, but the legislators in Tallahassee might not share that position. Mayor Naugle stated that the League of Cities was certainly against forced annexation, and it was likely that legislators around the State would not support forced annexation no matter how the local Delegation felt.

Mr. Wren said the other bill with Fort Lauderdale named involved Rock Island. He described the boundaries of the area and said that the population was about 3,000. Mr. Wren stated that Oakland Park and Lauderdale Lakes were also potential choices for the Rock Island area. Mayor Naugle asked if the selection depended upon which city received the most votes or if one community had to receive half of the votes. Mr. Wren did not know how a "three-way" was handled. The City Manager believed it involved a plurality of votes. *Ms. Linda Cox*, Lobbyist, believed that was the case, but anything could be included in the bill.

Mr. Wren stated that there were three other bills that did not name Fort Lauderdale at this point. However, the Committee had indicated choice was necessary, and Fort Lauderdale had been mentioned in all three cases. He reported that Broward Estates had now gone forward without Fort Lauderdale, but naming Plantation and Lauderdale Lakes. Mr. Wren advised that West Ken Lark had also been discussed, but the bill posed by Lauderdale Lakes had been "killed" last night because the commercial businesses had not been contacted. There were also some zoning matters that did not fit into typical zoning codes. He stated that Fort Lauderdale had been discussed as a potential choice, but the bill was "dead" at this time.

Commissioner Smith understood the Swap Shop encompassed 20% of that area. Mr. Wren did not know the statistics, but he could obtain the figures as to how much of the acreage was residential v commercial.

Mr. Wren said the last bill involved Broadview Estates/Pompano Park, west of the Executive Airport. It also included Imperial Estates and Village Park. He advised this bill would be deliberated by the Annexation Subcommittee tonight, and Fort Lauderdale could be a choice. Mr. Wren was seeking some sort of Commission direction in this regard. He stated that due to some things that were not known, but some of the revenue-positive things could be “married” to some of the revenue-negative to create a win-win situation. At this point, staff was suggesting the City move forward with some “opt out” language and work with the County on some of the capital improvements that might help the figures in terms of facilities.

Mr. Wren advised there were also some intangible issues relating to the transition of County employment to City employment, and other things that might make the concept unacceptable or acceptable. Therefore, staff felt opt-in language would be appropriate at this time. He noted that staff felt a proactive approach to the potential annexation areas, and he anticipated presenting additional scenarios in the future. The City Manager wanted the Commission to be aware that the Delegation had set 2005 as the new target for having all unincorporated areas incorporated, and the issue had to be considered comprehensively to avoid being asked to take some areas deemed less than desirable standing alone. His goal was to ensure no long-term tax burden on the City’s current taxpayers.

Mayor Naugle said there had been a hearing at Parkway Middle School recently, and the various cities were represented with the exception of Plantation. He thought a good message to send to the Legislature would be to ask for some “opt-out” language on the two proposals involving Broadview and Rock Island unless the County could make up the difference in operating expenses for a period of years. Mayor Naugle felt all the cities should make the same request so everyone shared in the subsidies rather than burdening a small number of people with the extra expense.

Commissioner Moore thought it would be a good idea for the Commission to provide some direction. He felt that if Fort Lauderdale was going to consider the Broadview community near North Lauderdale, the boundary of the highway should be utilized in terms of Imperial Estates and Village Park rather than dealing with areas on the other side of the road in close proximity to North Lauderdale. Mayor Naugle understood he was referring to splitting the area by State Road 7. Commissioner Moore agreed that was correct.

Mayor Naugle believed half of Imperial States was west of State Road 7. Mr. Wren believed Commissioner Moore had meant to reference the Turnpike. Mayor Naugle believed State Road 7 had been under discussion, and he pointed out that the fire station was east of the Turnpike. Commissioner Moore had no problem using the Turnpike, but he did not want to consider Broadview Estates or Pompano Park. Mr. Wren understood he was only interested in Village Park, and Commissioner Moore agreed that was correct. Commissioner Smith thought that would split Imperial Estates. Mr. Wren agreed it would. Commissioner Moore felt Tamarac should be a potential choice.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Mayor Naugle that the City should “opt out” of areas that did not make good financial sense, and it also made sense to take a proactive approach to some of the other areas. He believed the smaller communities were looking to Fort Lauderdale, as the largest City, to help with this issue. Commissioner Smith agreed the City had to financially protect itself in terms of areas that did not make sense but, at the same time, there should be options. He supported a dual approach.

Commissioner Moore felt sensible boundaries should be established as a first step today. Then, the financial issues could be addressed. He did not differ with the opt-out idea, although he felt a different caveat was in order. Commissioner Moore thought Fort Lauderdale should indicate it would consider annexing those communities that were contiguous to the City, based upon findings related to fiscal impact. Commissioner Smith wanted to make it clear to the Delegation that it could not force the annexation of areas that would have an adverse effect on the taxpayers unless they were willing to address the revenue stream. Commissioner Moore agreed, but he felt the geographic issue should be considered first.

Commissioner Moore pointed out that Rock Island was in close proximity to the City limits, for example, as were Roosevelt Gardens, Franklin Park, Washington Park, and Boulevard Gardens. However, he did not think Twin Lakes should be on the City's map, although Commissioner Katz might feel differently because it had some contact with Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Smith pointed out that those areas were as close to Lauderdale and Plantation as they were to Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Moore acknowledged that those areas were sandwiched between Fort Lauderdale and another community, but he felt 31st Avenue was a natural boundary. He also pointed out that Commissioner Smith's concept would not address Riverland Village or Melrose Park. Commissioner Smith did not disagree. Commissioner Moore did not see how the financial issues could be addressed until the boundaries had been established.

Mayor Naugle asked the City Manager if he felt there were any areas that would be too difficult to serve. The City Manager said that Broadview Park would be a challenge in terms of police and fire services, particularly in terms of radio communications. In all probability, communications would have to be enhanced, but this area presented particular challenges. Mayor Naugle referred to another area on the map, and the City Manager noted that was in close proximity to the City's well fields around the Executive Airport. It, too, was west of State Road 7 and presented the same issues as Broadview Park. Mayor Naugle thought many people probably did not realize that the Holiday Inn on State Road 7 north of Commercial Boulevard was within Fort Lauderdale City limits now.

Commissioner Smith asked the City Manager which of the areas made sense to him as an administrator. The City Manager felt those mentioned by Commissioner Moore made sense, although they could not be addressed all at once. Mayor Naugle thought anything east of State Road 7 could probably be served. The City Manager noted that other areas could, over time, be handled as a continuous service area. Commissioner Smith inquired about North Andrews Gardens. The City Manager thought that area was feasible, realizing that more comments about operations at Executive Airport would likely result.

Commissioner Moore had no doubt that the City would have to deal with North Andrews Gardens, Rock Island, Roosevelt Gardens, Washington Park, and Boulevard Gardens. He thought Riverland Village and Lauderdale Isles would also be possibilities. He felt there were opportunities for discussing Broward Estates, Saint George, and West Ken Lark. Mayor Naugle noted that there was one group of people that felt all these areas should go into one City. Commissioner Moore believed communities had already demonstrated they did not want to take that approach. He referred to page 26 of the document that had been distributed and requested clarification of Item 7 with respect to choice. It seemed to indicate that residents should have the right, when reasonable and possible, to choose which municipality to join. However, a differing statement had been made at the recent meeting.

Ms. Cox stated that the issue of choice had been based on a statement by the Subcommittee Chair, Ken Sorensen. He had indicated to the Broward Delegation that the citizens would have a choice or he would not hear a bill. She believed he wanted to be sure citizens had a choice and that he thought the Delegation would insist certain neighborhoods go into particular cities. Now, Broward Estates had indicated it had made a decision and did not want another choice.

Mayor Naugle wondered why the choice could not be “yes, we want to join Plantation,” for example, or “we want to stay unincorporated.” Ms. Cox advised that the Delegation had taken the position that staying unincorporated was not an option. Commissioner Moore understood that Mr. Sorensen had indicated that without a choice, a bill would not be heard. However, if a community had weighed the pros and cons of an adjoining municipality and already agreed on one, he wondered if Mr. Sorensen would consider it. Ms. Cox planned to ask him that specifically, but one possible problem involved individuals within an area having a different view.

Mayor Naugle noted there were areas that simply had only one choice if the law required they be geographically contiguous. He cited Franklin Park as an example. Further, until Melrose Park was annexed into Fort Lauderdale, Broward Estates was only contiguous to one City. He felt Mr. Sorensen might take a different view if that was explained. Commissioner Moore believed those areas were connected to Lauderhill via the waterway. Ms. Cox added that the Delegation could annex an area into a community even if it were not contiguous.

Commissioner Smith felt the City should take the lead on annexation as the largest City, but it would be done so it was revenue neutral. He also thought there should be a plan so the entire thing would be revenue positive over a period of time. Once a plan had been established, Commissioner Smith believed the City should move forward proactively to address the 2005 deadline. Mayor Naugle was concerned that one area included in the plan might vote to join the City while another, also included in the plan, did not leaving a deficit. Commissioner Moore said that was the reason he felt the geographic issues should be addressed first. Mayor Naugle thought the areas east of State Road 7 were the most viable. Commissioner Moore agreed.

Commissioner Moore felt that if there were cities that had annexed commercial properties without including bedroom communities, the commercial property annexed over the past 20 years should be given to the community that annexed the bedroom areas. Commissioner Smith agreed, but he did not think it was possible. Commissioner Moore thought it was the only way to make certain areas viable for annexation. Mayor Naugle felt that would be regarded as attacking other cities. Commissioner Katz believed that fight had been lost last year. Commissioner Moore felt only one round had been lost.

Mayor Naugle did not believe a majority of the Commission was interested in trying to strip other cities of property. Commissioner Moore said that was not what he had in mind. He felt cities should either participate in the annexation or make it palatable for other communities to annex certain areas. Commissioner Smith thought the County and State should devise a formula that would make things revenue neutral.

Commissioner Katz thought it would make more sense to take the eastern half of the central section highlighted by staff rather than handling it all as one area. Commissioner Smith supported using 31st Avenue as the boundary. Commissioner Katz felt that would be preferable to using State Road 7.

Commissioner Moore suggested that a bus tour be arranged so the Commission could visit all the areas that were unincorporated. Commissioner Smith felt the eastern area was a more natural fit for Fort Lauderdale, which meant that some revenue positive areas to the north would be necessary as well. Commissioner Moore was proud of what the County had done in Roosevelt Gardens, Franklin Park and Washington Park, as well as what was proposed in Boulevard Gardens. Commissioner Smith agreed some capital improvements had been made, but there had been no commitments as to operating expenses. Commissioner Moore did not believe expenses would be as great as anticipated in these stable neighborhoods. This was the reason he felt a Commission bus tour would be in order. He felt the Commission should have a sense of these communities before debating the annexations.

Commissioner Katz pointed out that the most critical financial challenges would not necessarily be physically visible as noted in the back-up material. Mayor Naugle felt that was the reason for the existing policy of annexing areas when the City would break even or do better. He thought that policy should be continued. Commissioner Katz understood there were different definitions of "revenue neutral." Commissioner Smith suggested that the City's definition and position be put in writing and sent to the Delegation. Commissioner Moore believed that was Ms. Cox's job. Ms. Cox stated that materials had been offered to that effect, but the Delegation felt it would be impossible to annex all the areas if the City's definition was utilized. Mayor Naugle noted that another way to resolve the issue would be with County or State subsidies.

Mayor Naugle believed there was consensus to maintain existing policy in this regard. Commissioner Smith thought it would be necessary to go past it because it was not proactive enough. Mayor Naugle believed the only way to go further would be to offer multiple choices for vote.

Commissioner Moore believed there was consensus that Fort Lauderdale not be one of the two cities to be considered in terms of annexing either of the Broadview areas. It was agreed. Commissioner Moore thought consensus had also been reached to address everything east of State Road 7 as a boundary. Mayor Naugle supported that if it could be done in a revenue neutral fashion. Commissioner Katz preferred to address the area east of 31st Avenue. Commissioner Smith suggested the City take that position now with the idea that State Road 7 might make sense as a boundary in the future. It was agreed.

Commissioner Moore inquired about North Andrews Gardens. It was the consensus to offer Fort Lauderdale as one of the choices. Commissioner Moore asked if Village Park should be a "target." Mayor Naugle believed North Lauderdale wanted to annex that area, and he did not think it would help Fort Lauderdale a great deal. It was the consensus not to pursue that area, but to offer Fort Lauderdale as a choice to Twin Lakes only with the inclusion of North Andrews Gardens.

Ms. Jan Washburn, of the Broadview Park Civic Association, wished to point out that about a quarter of the land in Broadview Park belonged to the City of Fort Lauderdale, and the area purchased its water from Fort Lauderdale. In fact, she thought the community felt it was more a part of Fort Lauderdale than of Plantation. If the City Commission did not care to address areas west of State Road 7, she did not think she could do much about it, but Fort Lauderdale was already there. Mayor Naugle explained that were it not for the \$1 million deficit, the Commission would be willing to address some of the challenges associated with that area in terms of fire and police services and communications. Ms. Washburn understood the County study showed Broadview Park as revenue neutral.

Commissioner Moore was concerned about the level of service that could be provided to Broadview Park because it would be lower than the services provided to current City residents. He did not think it would be fair to offer substandard services to that community, particularly with respect to public safety.

Mr. Karl Shallenberger, on behalf of the City's Annexation Team, understood a proactive approach was desired, and he believed the Annexation Team could convince anyone to come into the City of Fort Lauderdale. However, he wanted to ensure he understood what the Commission wanted staff to be proactive for.

Mr. Michael Kasten wondered what the residents of the areas east of 31st Avenue wanted. Commissioner Moore hoped for input in that regard today. Mayor Naugle believed different groups in different neighborhoods had different opinions in this respect, which was the purpose of the elections. He thought some polling could be done now to make a determination.

Ms. Mildred Jones, President of the Rock Island Civic Association, agreed with Commissioner Moore that a Commission tour of the neighborhood would be helpful. She said it might not be exactly what the Commission thought, and there were a number of things that might benefit the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Jones agreed the community wanted the same types of services that other City residents enjoyed, which was why it wanted to be annexed into Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Sally Tillman-Watson, of Washington Park, reported that an emergency vote of the Lafayette Association had been taken, and area residents had voted to join Fort Lauderdale, although a bill would not be considered until next year.

Ms. Lois Hammill, of Boulevard Gardens, noted that the Legislative Delegation had indicated that communities should have a choice, and this community had submitted two names for a vote.

Commissioner Smith thought it appeared that in order to annex Broadview, the City would need some very revenue-positive areas. Otherwise, unless there was a real commitment from the County and the State, Fort Lauderdale would suffer a serious loss. Nevertheless, he thought that area might be an important component of making the larger picture revenue-neutral. On second thought, Commissioner Smith was not sure the City should dismiss Broadview now. However, it was a challenged community. Commissioner Moore had no objection to moving the boundary to State Road 7 rather than 31st Avenue, although it appeared there was consensus for 31st Avenue. Mayor Naugle said he had talked to residents out there, and he did not think they would want to join Fort Lauderdale, particularly since it could not offer as good a product as other citizens received.

The City Manager understood the Commission wanted to explore, under any scenario, how commitments from the County and the State could be optimized to meet operational costs. Mayor Naugle asked the other Commissioners how many years they wanted the County to subsidize operations in annexed areas. Commissioners Katz and Smith thought 50 years might be necessary. The City Manager also understood the Commission wanted to take a drive-through tour of the areas proposed for annexation, and he suggested December 4, 2001. Mayor Naugle was too busy on that date, and the City Manager noted that a final vote would be taken on December 12, 2001. Commissioner Smith suggested a tour on December 3, 2001, and the City Manager agreed to schedule a tour within the constraints of the Commission's calendar.

Mayor Naugle referred to Broadview and Rock Island. He felt there should be opt-out language unless someone came forward with a multi-year operations subsidy. The City Manager understood the Commission wanted staff to pursue opt-out language while working toward a comprehensive scenario.

Ms. Lois Howell wondered what would happen if Plantation did not want to annex Broward Estates. Mayor Naugle said it was his personal opinion that Fort Lauderdale should consider going all the way to State Road 7 assuming revenue-neutrality, but the majority of the Commission supported a 31st Avenue boundary. He thought that if the County agreed to cover the deficit of certain areas for multiple years, it would simply be a matter of residents deciding which City to join. However, any community would be concerned about having to raise taxes significantly without any increase in services.

Ms. Howell asked if Fort Lauderdale would consider annexing Broward Estates if police services continued to be provided by the Broward Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Moore did not think so. He pointed out that Fort Lauderdale had its own Police Department, although he had no objection to hiring the deputies that worked in the annexed areas in order to increase the size of the police force to deal with additional areas. He clarified that this was his personal opinion on the subject.

Ms. Cox advised that an amendment to the bill related to Broadview Estates was going to be offered, and Fort Lauderdale was not included. Commissioner Moore asked which communities were included. Mr. Wren believed only one community had been included so, since there was no choice, it had been suggested that other communities be contacted, including Tamarac, Lauderdale Lakes, and Fort Lauderdale. He wondered if the Commission wanted to suggest to the Delegation that Fort Lauderdale be included in part of the bill or all of the bill. Commissioner Smith thought it should be included in all of the bill.

Action: As discussed. Tour to be scheduled.

I-B – Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Proposed Streetscape Project for Southeast/Southwest 2nd Street

A discussion on the DDA's proposed streetscape improvements to the Southeast/Southwest 2nd Street corridor. Commissioner Hutchinson inquired about the portion of Southwest 2nd Street, west of Andrews Avenue.

Mr. Bob Dugan, of EDSA, described the planned improvements and displayed a detailed plan, pointing out 2nd Street. He noted that improvements to the outside traffic lanes were proposed on 2nd Street. Mr. Dugan said that some type of movable barrier system would have to be used at times, but the street would operate as a four-lane roadway during the day. On weekend evenings, some of the lanes were closed down.

Commissioner Moore inquired about the effect on parking. Mr. Dugan said there would be no effect except at Southwest 3rd Avenue, where some parallel parking would be removed from one side of the street in order to expand sidewalks. He described some of the improvements planned for the area, including improved pavement and lighting. Commissioner Smith understood ten parking spaces would be lost, but he did not think it would be a problem. Mr. Dugan agreed that lack of parking was more of a perception issue than a reality because so many people wanted to park directly in front of their destinations. He noted there was plenty of parking in the PACA garage.

Commissioner Katz referred to Southeast 2nd Street, between the Broward County Library and Federal Highway. She understood some landscaping was being done, and she wondered why 2nd Street had been selected since there were a number of garages in the area that were not conducive to a pedestrian environment.

Mr. Dugan said the intent had been to create a cohesive corridor with the idea of accommodating some type of urban, wheeled transit system. Commissioner Moore pointed out that once someone parked his car in a garage, he became a pedestrian and a pedestrian-friendly environment was desirable. Commissioner Katz felt this part of 2nd Street looked more like a service street.

Mr. Doug Eagon, Chair of the DDA, explained that when the DDA had passed its bond referendum, streetscape had been one of the components. A prototypical streetscape program had been developed, and there was a natural relationship between Las Olas Boulevard and Riverwalk and the areas to the north through the downtown. He noted that there was a natural congregation of people in the area by virtue of the garages and some of the developments that were taking place. Mr. Eagon felt this was the next logical street paralleling Las Olas Boulevard to connect Himmarshee Village with the parking structures. He also believed there would be some residential development on 2nd Street, and he thought this could serve as a model for other streets throughout the downtown area. In fact, 6th Street had also been identified.

Commissioner Hutchinson was disappointed because the paved crosswalks did not extend beyond Andrews Avenue. Mr. Dugan said there was a paved crosswalk at 1st Avenue, but the emphasis had been on improving pedestrian surfaces. Commissioner Smith asked what type of street trees would be utilized. Mr. Dugan stated that there was very little space for trees, and there were existing trees. He noted there were a few pockets where landscaping would be added, and shade trees would be used in those locations.

Mr. Jim Carras, Chair of the Himmarshee Village Association, said this Association had been working closely with the DDA and was supportive of this plan. He liked the concept of the linkage all the way across 2nd Street, although there were concerns that the linkage should extend all the way from Federal Highway to the Performing Arts Center. For a variety of reasons, it stopped at 3rd Avenue, and he thought the DDA should consider a link between the garage with Himmarshee Village, Las Olas Riverfront, and 2nd Street. Although some improvements had been made by the Performing Arts Center and the Museum, Mr. Carras still felt the area between 3rd Avenue and the garage should be part of this project or a second phase. He thought a comprehensive plan should be devised rather than dealing with individual aspects of the area. Nevertheless, he congratulated the DDA on this plan.

Action: Conceptual plan approved.

I-C – Redistricting Process for City Commission Districts

A discussion was scheduled on the redistricting process of the City Commission districts as a result of the 2000 Census. The City Manager noted that a memorandum had been distributed in this regard, and there had been meetings with the individual Commissioners. Mayor Naugle pointed out that there was a question as to whether or not a consultant should be retained.

Commissioner Smith felt a consultant should be hired, and Commissioner Katz agreed. Commissioner Smith suggested consideration of establishing an “at large” seat or two. There had also been discussion within the community about the possibility of the beach area being carved out for an additional representative. He pointed out that this was a small Commission compared to others of the same size. Commissioner Smith noted that Commissioners were very parochial, which he felt was a good thing with single member districts, but it often resulted in losing sight of the larger picture. He felt that might be something a consultant could examine.

Mayor Naugle pointed out that this idea would be a Charter issue, which was something that should be considered by the Charter Review Board. Further, an election would be necessary. Commissioner Moore felt this was a subject worthy of discussion, but he agreed it was a separate Charter issue. Commissioner Smith understood that if the idea were adopted, the district boundaries would have to be redrawn again. Mayor Naugle agreed that was correct. Commissioner Smith wished to discuss this subject at some point, and there were no objections.

Mayor Naugle believed there was consensus to hire a consultant. Commissioner Moore supported the idea, but the cost suggested seemed to be twice what he would expect. Mr. Paul Costanza explained that the price seemed to be the consensus among communities that had hired consultants, given the population and annexation issues. However, solid figures would not really be known until responses were received to the Request for Proposals (RFP). Commissioner Moore was concerned that potential consultants would read the figure contained in the back-up memorandum and price the services accordingly. He wanted to make it known that he was not happy with the \$60,000 estimated cost.

Mayor Naugle noted that the first paragraph of the memorandum also indicated that this would present an “enormous challenge.” He believed any “kid in middle school with a computer” could do this work, and he did not regard it as any enormous challenge. Commissioner Katz also suggested that Florida Atlantic University (FAU) be contacted in this regard in order to save money. Mayor Naugle agreed this involved GIS-type demographics. Commissioner Hutchinson had heard that the State had software available that could address this type of work. Mayor Naugle suggested that responses be accepted from consultants or academic institutions. It was agreed.

Commissioner Smith felt some ground rules should be established so neighborhoods were not split along district lines. Commissioner Hutchinson agreed neighborhoods should not be split. Commissioner Moore thought the ground rules could be established when a consultant was selected.

Mr. Buddy Lochrie, representing Broward Workshop, said his primary interest was that the districts be compact and contiguous with populations as nearly equal as possible. He agreed neighborhoods should be kept in mind, but he did not feel they should be the single criteria. He felt population was more important. Mr. Lochrie stated that the State Legislature had spent a great deal putting a computer program together, and anyone could use it from his or her home computers. Commissioner Moore believed the program provided demographic information, but it did not allow movement of boundary lines.

Commissioner Moore was also concerned about how voting precincts were aligned. Mayor Naugle agreed that was a challenge.

At 3:47 P.M., Commissioner Moore left the meeting. He returned at 3:49 P.M.

Mayor Naugle noted that there was consensus to hire a consultant or an academic institution and wondered if the Commission wished to establish a 5-member selection committee. It was the consensus of the Commission to have a 7-member committee, with each Commissioner selecting a member, two consensus appointees. Mayor Naugle thought there would also be a staff ex-officio member. It was the consensus of the Commission to hold multiple community meetings in this regard, with one meeting held in each district and a final meeting at City Hall.

Commissioner Hutchinson wondered if some of the money from AT&T Broadband could be used for this purpose if any agreement could be reached. She felt the governmental channel could be used to inform the public about the redistricting meetings. Commissioner Moore was sure there was a way this could be done.

Action: As discussed.

I-D – Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Inc. Annual Report

A presentation was scheduled on Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, Inc.'s annual report. *Mr. Ken Ortner*, of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust, explained that the organization had a new name, a new mission and new goals established over the past year. The new mission was:

To be the catalyst in building and nurturing Riverwalk as a vibrant community connected by the New River.

Mr. Ortner said that Riverwalk was more than just a park. It was a downtown Fort Lauderdale community, and it was all connected by the New River. He advised that all stakeholders in the area wanted utilization of the area while enhancing the value of the Riverwalk area for the entire community. Mr. Ortner discussed the goals of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust. He noted that the Post Office site was of particular interest, and an RFQ had recently been issued. Mr. Ortner stated that presentations would be made at the next Board meeting and invited the Commission to attend.

Mr. Ortner reported that Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust was considering becoming membership based because the community had grown so much, and there was so much new interest in Riverwalk. He also reported that liaisons had been formed with many organizations, and stakeholders were being requested to join as new developments came on board. Mr. Ortner introduced some of the Board members who were present at the meeting. Mayor Naugle asked if there was representation from New River Village and Marketplace. Mr. Ortner said an invitation had been issued, but there was no representative yet. Nevertheless, Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust wanted to include all stakeholders. Mr. Ortner added that a grant for \$625,000 was being sought for collaborative marketing in the area.

Ms. Patsy Menutti, Executive Director of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust, provided an update on the fund-raising activities of the organization. She advised that the sale of engraved bricks was still the major fundraiser and some 23,000 had been sold. In addition, banners and memorial plaques were sold, and some fund-raising events and parties were held each year to build energy and excitement about Riverwalk. Ms. Menutti stated that the funds were used for advocating Riverwalk, honoring visiting celebrities, and publishing the Riverwalk brochure. In addition, some lighting and electrical enhancements had been provided near the River House Restaurant. She also advised that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was planned for January for the native plant exhibit across from the Museum of Discovery and Science.

Mr. Steve Tilbrook, Vice-President of Riverwalk, stated that the Riverwalk Master Plan 2000 had been commissioned last year, and the second phase involved development of comprehensive design guidelines for development along Riverwalk. He also thought this could serve as a pilot project under the City's Urban Design Initiative. Mr. Tilbrook added that County Commissioner Rodstrom believed he could secure \$3 million in funding from the County Parks Bond for Riverwalk improvements. He noted that the primary focus of the organization's fund-raising activities involved marketing downtown Fort Lauderdale as a destination, and there was no ongoing funding for maintenance and upgrades of Riverwalk as infrastructure depreciated over time.

Mr. Tilbrook felt there was a need for an ongoing, dedicated funding source to provide annual upgrades and maintenance at Riverwalk. He suggested that potential sources might be special events, dock revenues, parking fees, and lease revenues from the Post Office and other sites in the downtown area. Mr. Tilbrook recommended that this money be set aside for future improvements at Riverwalk.

Commissioner Moore said he was greatly disappointed because the City had invested a vast amount of money in Riverwalk, and he felt the Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust should be promoting the area in a different way. He understood there was discussion about funding opportunities, and he had no objection to creation of some events on the Riverwalk. Commissioner Moore had no objection to giving the organization half the revenues generated during such new events through kiosk rentals, parking fees, etc.

Commissioner Smith felt events like the Blues Festival, which had been removed from the area, should be replaced with other events. Commissioner Hutchinson agreed other events could be held. Mayor Naugle thought revenues generated by events could be committed to Riverwalk maintenance.

Mr. Tilbrook wished to clarify that Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Trust did not receive any financial assistance from the City. He explained that he was not seeking money for the Trust. Rather, the Trust wanted the City to use revenues for maintenance at Riverwalk. Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that Riverwalk and City Recreation Department staff work together on some special events ideas to earn money. She agreed there were some maintenance issues that had to be addressed, such as dock repairs. Commissioner Hutchinson also agreed that design guidelines should be adopted for development on the Riverwalk. Although developers were asked to conform with those guidelines, they had never been formally adopted by the City Commission in the form of an ordinance.

Mr. Scott Strawbridge, member of Riverwalk Board and the City's Parks, Recreation & Beaches Advisory Board, stated that many events had been created to revitalize the downtown area, but the community had been a victim of its own success. He explained that every public event was in competition with the private enterprises in the area. Mr. Strawbridge felt the relationship between the Riverwalk Board and the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Advisory Board had been excellent.

Mr. Ortner advised that Ms. Sue Molnar, of the City's Parks & Recreation Department, sat on the Riverwalk Board, and some dialogue had already been started with Ms. Debbie Boland about some ideas for events.

Mayor Naugle thanked the representatives of Riverwalk for the presentation and noted that this was another volunteer group raising funds for the City. He felt the City asked a lot, but they asked for little in return, and he appreciated the effort.

Action: As discussed.

At 4:11 P.M., the meeting was recessed. It was reconvened at 4:37 P.M.

I-E – Playground at Lauderdale Manors Park

A discussion was scheduled on a proposed partnership with the Florida Engineering Society (FES) Broward Chapter and Park Structure to install playground apparatus at Lauderdale Manors Park.

Ms. Sandra Smith, President of the FES, was proud to present this proposal on behalf of the engineers who were willing to give of their time and money to better the community. She expressed appreciation to Peter Sheridan for making her aware of this opportunity for community involvement. She also thanked the companies that had committed \$2,500 each for this project. Ms. Smith added that \$12,500 had been committed, and labor would be provided as well. Mayor Naugle expressed appreciation on behalf of the City Commission.

Action: Approved as recommended.

At 4:38 P.M., Commissioner Hutchinson left the meeting. She returned at 4:40 P.M.

I-F – Proposed Speed Humps – Chateau Park Drive and Northwest 10th Place – Lauderdale Manors Neighborhood

A discussion was scheduled on a request to install speed humps on Chateau Park Drive, between Northwest 9th Terrace and Northwest 15th Avenue, and Northwest 10th Place, between Northwest 10th Avenue and Northwest 15th Avenue in the Lauderdale Manors neighborhood.

Action: Approved as recommended.

I-I – Transportation Element – City's Comprehensive Plan (PZ Case No. 5-T-99)

A discussion was scheduled on the drafted Transportation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Smith recalled concerns about light synchronization when this had been discussed last year. He understood a report would be forthcoming. *Mr. Walter Keller*, Consultant, had understood someone else was addressing that issue. However, the County had a major traffic signal program that it had been working on for many, many years. He understood that cables were often cut during construction and, once cut, the signal system became worse. Commissioner Smith hoped something could be done in this regard at some future date. Mr. Keller advised that he would seek some information on the subject in time for the public hearing.

Commissioner Smith referred to the T-Max. He noted that a route down Sistrunk Boulevard to Federal Highway was not shown on the map in that fashion with the various stops, but permits were being reviewed. Commissioner Smith was also concerned about closing light arterials, and he wondered if this Element could include a policy of not closing more than one same direction artery at the same time.

Mayor Naugle noted that these were things the City was binding itself to, and he could not remember a time when the City had closed more than one arterial at the same time. He believed the County had, and Mr. Keller advised that something could be included in this Element with regard to coordination of projects. Commissioner Smith believed everyone agreed future high performance transit routes would continue down to the beach, but the map only showed them in the downtown center core. Mr. Keller stated that the maps in this document were consistent with the County Transportation Element, and Broward County was very close to revising it. He explained that the City's plan had to be consistent with the County's plan. Commissioner Smith wanted to ensure the mass transit effort would include the beachfront. Mayor Naugle thought one reason could be that some sort of light rail might be possible in the future. Commissioner Katz believed the County plan showed the transit routes to the beach.

Commissioner Katz wondered if it would be possible to include encouragement to open up McNab Road in the Transportation Element in order to reduce the traffic in the City and to expedite hurricane evacuation routes. Mr. Keller replied that a policy could be included that suggested the City and County work together in this regard. He felt this was a need facility, and cooperation with the County and adjacent cities to protect the corridor was important. There were no objections.

The City Manager understood there were strong emotions related to this issue. He wondered if a policy would elicit any negative comment on this Element. Mr. Keller suggested that it be addressed as a separate addendum. He thought language could be devised to address Commissioner Katz's concerns and provide a basis to do different things. Commissioner Katz wanted to ensure it was kept on the "radar screen."

Mr. Keller explained that Pompano Beach needed McNab Road to remain open because of problems on Atlantic Boulevard. It was an important facility, and it might become more "politically palatable" at a later date. Commissioner Katz thought it could be worded as "gently as possible." The City Manager believed this could be accomplished.

Commissioner Hutchinson inquired about on-street parking. She noted that some developments had eliminated it, but retail uses were then provided on the ground level. Mr. Keller said he would investigate this issue in the context of the Land Development Code. He explained that there were several policies involved in parking strategies, and there were provisions to address changes that should be made as the parking situation developed.

Commissioner Katz was concerned about Objective 6, Policy 8, on page 28, which indicated that the City would investigate the designation of additional roadways as image streets. She did not know that was something she wanted to pursue at this time because these labels could prohibit certain actions. For example, Federal Highway was a designated image street, but she did not think that was desired downtown, with traffic "whizzing" past and just looking pretty.

Mayor Naugle noted that image streets did not prohibit on-street parking. Commissioner Katz believed it was used as a reason not to include on-street parking. Mr. Keller stated that the policy could be eliminated. Mayor Naugle agreed. He pointed out that the City could still do it without being obligated to do it by including this policy.

Commissioner Moore referred to the 7th/9th Avenue Connector discussed on page 28. He wanted to remove references to six lanes. Mayor Naugle suggested language indicating that the City shall implement the 7th/9th Avenue plan. Commissioner Moore had no objection. He also noted that the map color also needed to be changed from green to red to indicate four lanes.

Commissioner Moore referred to Policy 3.4 on page 18. He asked why the word “transit” was being removed. Mr. Keller explained that there were some other policies that addressed transit. Commissioner Moore suggested use of the term “transit/TriRail” in order to include all types. It was agreed.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that Southwest 2nd Street was an image street. She wondered how that would be affected if the designation was eliminated. Mr. Keller explained that this would not eliminate the designation. Rather, the City was not committing to it as a policy of the Transportation Element.

Action: Approved as discussed. Public hearing to be scheduled for December 11, 2001.

I-G – Policy for the Recognition of Neighborhood Associations

A discussion was scheduled on a proposed policy for the recognition of neighborhood associations by the City, as requested by Commissioner Hutchinson. The City Manager believed the back-up memorandum was self-explanatory, and he thought the Commission was aware of any number of circumstances raising questions about recognition of the various neighborhood groups.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she was still receiving mail as President of the Edgewood Association. She wanted to ensure registration of not just neighborhood groups, but all groups throughout the City. Commissioner Hutchinson hoped for a database of the groups and who they represented.

Ms. Leslie Carhart, Community & Economic Development Department, stated that there had been some preliminary discussions with the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations in an effort to establish a baseline and some base data about who the groups were. She noted that civic associations were boundary specific and sensitive, and it was conceivable that there would be other kinds of community-based organizations. Ms. Carhart said that requests to be added to the City Clerk’s mailing list were granted without question, and many communities operated in that fashion. However, it was only a mailing list. She explained that groups were tracked more closely in the past to facilitate communications and coordination.

Mayor Naugle asked which of the groups on the mailing list were not legitimate groups. Ms. Carhart did not want to presume what was considered legitimate at this point. She noted that there were also business groups, so distinctions were not made as to the type of groups on the list. Commissioner Smith understood the recommendation was for the Council to assume the duty of placing groups on the list. Ms. Carhart clarified that staff was seeking a chance to sit down with the Council and work this out, but she could not imagine the City wanting to decide what groups were not legitimate.

Mayor Naugle did not think there was a huge problem. Basically, the list was to ensure the distribution of public information. Commissioner Smith believed problems had developed because there were vying groups in some neighborhoods. Mayor Naugle thought that had always been the case. Commissioner Smith understood that but if a neighborhood was seeking funding for an NCIP project, there was some question as to which group was representative of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Hutchinson pointed out that there were also some overlapping boundaries. She wondered if the City should listen to the group that had been in existence longer or the one that had formed because of an assessment project, for example. She noted that if there had been no controversy, the second group would not exist. She was not sure how to balance these things as a Commissioner.

Mayor Naugle agreed there had been conflicting groups in the past with respect to special assessment projects. He believed the City had settled it by holding public hearings at which everyone was heard. Commissioner Hutchinson agreed but, when a group wanted to change an overall master plan and buy its own entrance signs, she was not sure how to address it. Mayor Naugle thought the Commission would place the issue on an agenda, listen to both sides, and then make a decision.

Commissioner Smith believed the community at large was looking to the City Commission to solve the problem. He acknowledged that everyone could wait for public hearings, but he thought the public was hoping the Commission could find some way to identify the legitimate representatives. Mayor Naugle felt there would always be conflicts, but it did not make a lot of difference in the end because the "buck stopped" with the City Commission.

Commissioner Smith wondered if there were any other communities that had experienced these types of problems and found some ingenious way of resolving the issue. Ms. Carhart advised that she had looked at some other communities, and different methods were used. She said it was not uncommon for communities to do exactly what Fort Lauderdale did now – accept organizations exactly as they were presented without question. When it came to awarding grant projects, some communities made funding awards and others examined articles of incorporation and bylaws. She explained that incorporated associations provided a lawful vehicle for holding and spending monies.

Commissioner Moore said he had experienced this situation in the past, but he did not care for the Council's recommendation. He had hoped the Council would agree to recognize groups that held regular elections for officers and had an open community involvement process. Commissioner Moore thought ground rules for such elections would resolve many of the problems. He believed problems had arisen because associations did not hold elections in order to address dissatisfaction with existing officers. Further, when elections were held, rules were often not followed. Commissioner Moore thought project funding should only be offered to groups that had consistent and official election processes.

Mayor Naugle asked Commissioner Moore how often he thought such elections should be held. Commissioner Moore felt that was an issue for the Council to decide. *Mr. Michael Kasten*, President of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, advised that the Council Board and membership had approved three policy guidelines last week. Elections would be required every two years, but he pointed out that not all neighborhood groups were members of the Council. Further, elections would have to be held within 6 months of January 1, 2002.

Commissioner Smith wondered what would happen if there were two groups in a neighborhood and they both held the mandated elections. Mr. Kasten said that issue was the reason he had raised this subject in the first place. He stated that the Council's bylaws indicated that conflicting groups had a year to "duke it out." If no agreement was reached, the originating organization was the one the Council would recognize. Mr. Kasten did not think defining election guidelines was a responsibility for the Council, however. He stated that if an organization wanted the Council to observe an election to make sure it was fair and equitable, it would do so, but it did not want to mandate such action.

Mr. Kasten felt that if there was City money involved in something, it was the City's responsibility to provide some blueprint for the fair and equitable operation of these organizations. He did not feel it was the Council's responsibility because it was not providing money.

Mayor Naugle felt the Council's recommendation was a good one, but the City could have its own rules. He noted that if a neighborhood or group did not have its "act together," City funds would not be forthcoming. Mayor Naugle thought it was that simple.

Commissioner Katz was concerned about new groups that were formed to address their own special issues that were not being addressed by an existing group. She did not want to preclude them from receiving funds. Mayor Naugle agreed and pointed out that was the purpose of the public hearings.

Commissioner Smith felt the Council should have more authority. Mr. Kasten advised it had, but staff had not found it agreeable. Mayor Naugle pointed out that people had the right of assembly, and the City could not prevent a "splinter group" from meeting, etc. However, the City Commission had the right to listen to them or ignore them. Commissioner Smith thought the Commission could attempt to mediate. Commissioner Moore thought people should decide which group they wanted to join, and every group could appear before the Commission. However, he wanted to ensure there was a process to prevent, for example, a few people from getting together and declaring themselves an association. He thought an open election process would resolve that issue.

Mayor Naugle felt that instead of a formal registration process that would create another level of bureaucracy, the Commission could raise questions about elections and membership when a request for funds was presented. He thought the answers to those questions would help the Commission establish whether or not an organization was legitimately representative. Commissioner Moore did not feel an entity should even be able to present a request without being able to demonstrate that there had been open elections and community involvement. He was concerned about "civic associations of one." Mayor Naugle pointed out that the City could establish criteria for funding applications that called for submission of bylaws and minutes of the meeting at which the last election had been held.

Commissioner Moore wanted the Council to verify that associations had held elections and had not barred anyone from voting. He did not want the Council to argue about anything but just to report the facts. Mr. Kasten agreed, but the Council's Board did not feel that was its responsibility. However, if the Commission wanted the Council to oversee elections, he thought the Board would be supportive.

Commissioner Moore was not sure what the Council's purpose was and inquired about its mission statement. Mr. Kasten stated that the purpose of the Council was to focus on the issues relating to the preservation of the present and future welfare of the City of Fort Lauderdale and its neighborhoods and citizens; to be proactive and reactive to those issues; to communicate any recommendations to the proper authorities; to strive to ever improve communications; and, to create a stronger partnership between City government and neighborhoods to maximize mutual objectives.

Commissioner Smith believed there were only about four or five problem areas, and he wondered if the Council would help mediate those problems. Mr. Kasten felt that was a reasonable request, and he through three or four members of the Council Board would think so as well.

Ms. Eugenia Dunkanellis said she lived in one of the unfortunate neighborhoods that had a splinter group. She stated that for matching grants and assessment projects, the Harbor Inlet Association had signed indemnification agreements with the City and expected the Commission to back them.

Mr. Jack Mertz said his neighborhood had experienced troubles for about seven years. He stated that the boundaries were designated on a map. Commissioner Smith believed the problem was that the Riverland Association claimed its boundaries extended all the way through the Woodland Park Association boundaries. Mayor Naugle believed Mr. Mertz was referring to the Woodland Park Subdivision boundaries, but many neighborhoods had numerous subdivisions. He noted that River Oaks and Croissant Park had finally agreed on boundaries that did not overlap, but he saw no way for the City to mediate such matters. Commissioner Moore thought this problem would be resolved by establishing a process for association elections with rules everyone followed. Commissioner Smith felt that might result in two grants, for example, to one area. Commissioner Moore thought this Commission could judge such matters when funding issues were presented. Mayor Naugle agreed.

Mr. Kasten noted that there was a map and list on the web site, and that was the only indication of what groups represented what areas. He suggested that the map be removed from the web site until this issue was resolved. He also thought that if the Commission allowed City staff and the Council to continue to work through the issues, some significant recommendations could be presented in the future. Commissioner Smith supported both of those suggestions.

Mayor Naugle felt it would be better to include some disclaimer on the web site map rather than eliminating it altogether. The City Manager concurred. Commissioner Smith felt that was a good compromise.

Action: As discussed.

I-H – Urban Design Initiative

A presentation was scheduled by the Urban Design Initiative consultant team on its preliminary report. Mr. Bruce Chatterton, Acting Development Review Coordinator, explained that the consultant team needed four projects on which to focus. Mayor Naugle suggested that each of the Commissioners put forward one project. Commissioner Hutchinson wanted to see adoption of Riverwalk Guidelines, and Commissioner Moore desired progress on a Sistrunk Master Plan. Commissioners Smith and Katz desired more time to suggest a project.

Mr. Chatterton introduced *Mr. Bill Renner*, of EDSA, stated that this process had been ongoing since April, 1999, in order to involve as many people as possible and to address the Urban Design Plan Commissioner Katz had been addressing. He advised that the listed projects were not necessarily location specific. For example, the Code did not contain a great deal of flexibility, so a Design Appeals Board might be desirable. Mr. Renner pointed out the projects that were location specific and those that might involve locations in a number of locations.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place the subject on the December 11, 2001 agenda so Commissioners could suggest specific projects.

Action: To be placed on December 11, 2001 agenda.

II-A – City Operating Budget and Economic Conditions

A report was presented on the overview of the relationship between the City's operating budget and the economy, as well as expenditure impacts in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 events.

Commissioner Katz wondered if the Commission should revisit some of the projects that had been selected for pursuit in the past in light of uncertain economic conditions. Commissioner Moore pointed out that capital projects were being encouraged because they stimulated the economy. Commissioner Katz understood that, but the Commission had approved many projects. Mayor Naugle stated that the \$550 million CIP was funded by water and sewer funds with modest increases in fees and did not affect the General Fund. Further, the CRA projects were committed with TIF funds. Mayor Naugle thought items affecting the General Fund took decisions. In fact, he felt the City might need to impose a hiring freeze for non-public safety positions.

The City Manager did not think the projects approved by the Commission would have any impact on the General Fund as indicated by Mayor Naugle and because they would occur over a long period. He advised that the Budget Advisory Board and staff would continue to watch the economic indicators. At this time, the City Manager felt the City should take a leadership position with capital projects to help stimulate the economy. He also thought there would be better indications in this regard after the first quarter.

The City Manager noted that some new personnel would be necessary to handle new projects, but General Fund items that did not affect public safety would be scrutinized. Mayor Naugle said he had seen an increase in armed robberies and other crimes, and more uniformed officers were necessary. He believed the crime rate increased due to the economy as people were laid off, etc., so the City would have to be very vigilant. Mayor Naugle observed that he had not been receiving the monthly crime reports lately. Commissioner Smith agreed the Commission needed that information. He also understood there had been twelve new hires in the Police Department last month.

Action: As discussed.

II-B – Think Life Properties

A report was presented on a recommendation to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for nonprofit agencies for Project Based Rent Assistance for Think Life Properties, consisting of thirty units at three sites located in Hollywood, Lauderdale Lakes and Fort Lauderdale. It was the consensus of the Commission to support staff's recommendation.

Action: Approved.

OB – CRA Legislation – Broward County

Commissioner Moore referred to the CRA legislation being proposed by Broward County as it related to the existing CRA boundaries. He recalled that a certain portion of the Konover property had been annexed into the City, and the proposed legislation would give the County an opportunity to revisit actions taken on that site because it was considered an expansion. Commissioner Moore believed it could adversely affect everything done over the past three years with respect to this property, and he was very concerned. He understood other counties considered the legislation beneficial because it would reduce its revenue sharing with CRAs, so he feared momentum could be building.

Mr. Dave Cardwell, CRA Consultant, stated that there had been a meeting last week in Orlando to discuss legislation being proposed by counties. He stated that the Florida Redevelopment Association had requested a meeting last June, but it had not been held until last week, and the discussion had centered on the fact that counties felt cities were taking too much of their money for redevelopment purposes. He advised that abuses had been discussed but not documented, and it had been indicated that unincorporated areas of counties were subsidizing county services within redevelopment areas because they were not receiving the benefit of revenues generated in those areas.

Mr. Cardwell reported that Broward County had prepared and filed a local bill, and there had also been discussion of a legislative position adopted by the Florida Association of Counties indicating it would support legislation that would tighten up the definition of "slum and blight" so it would be much more difficult to make such a finding. It also supported legislation that would extend to all counties the current approval charter counties had over the creation of CRAs. Mr. Cardwell stated that a compromise had been sought during the meeting, but a statement had been made indicating that five counties had already drafted a bill that would be filed no matter what compromise was suggested. He advised that Broward was one of those five counties, and efforts toward a compromise were still being made. Mr. Cardwell was not very optimistic, however.

Mayor Naugle reported that he had taken this issue to the Mayors of the large cities, and they had agreed to oppose the bill. This group intended to bring the matter up with the President, the Speaker, and the Governor during the session in Tallahassee. Commissioner Moore noted that he and Mayor Naugle had been in Orlando at the time of the meeting on Friday, and they could have been present to lend support. Mayor Naugle agreed that could have happened if the City's Lobbyist had informed them of the meeting.

Commissioner Moore understood a Senator from Broward County was sponsoring the legislation. Mr. Cardwell had been told Senator Skip Campbell had agreed to sponsor the bill. The City Manager said he had a conversation with Senator Campbell today by coincidence, so he had heard the City's side of the issue. He had also promised to provide him with additional information, so Senator Campbell was aware there was another side to the issue.

Mayor Naugle had heard indications that the City of Fort Lauderdale had approved. Commissioner Moore had heard that, too, and he had indicated otherwise, but he thought that might be how support was being built for the bill. He understood the County Administrator was taking the lead on this, and he desired an opportunity to dialogue. Commissioner Smith believed the expansion effort from 13th Street to Sunrise Boulevard would be on the County Commission agenda for review on December 12, 2001. He wondered if that might provide an opportunity for dialogue.

Commissioner Moore noted that the legislation was written to be retroactive to October 1, 2001. Mayor Naugle understood that was in the local bill, but he did not know if it was contained in the general bill. Commissioner Moore was not comfortable because it seemed as if anytime there was a discussion, a "line had already been drawn in the sand." He pointed out that many cities would like to use CRAs as tools, but they never had and were willing to "give away the baby with the bathwater" in order to get it. He believed those that had CRAs were being portrayed as greedy and hoarding tax dollars from counties.

Commissioner Moore understood County approval would be required for designation of the Konover site. He was concerned that the County would want to share in revenues earlier than planned if a CRA boundary change was sought, and he thought some strategy was in order. Commissioner Moore said the League of Cities had been requested to place this on their agenda, and Ms. Jackson advised that she had not received a response yet. Commissioner Smith wondered if any Broward cities favoring the County's position. Ms. Jackson thought Coral Springs was a proponent. Commissioner Smith thought the key would be to get the Broward League of Cities behind it.

Commissioner Moore wondered if Senator Campbell would agree to sit down and discuss the City's concerns. Even if he sponsored the legislation, Commissioner Moore thought it could be crafted so as not to harm the City's agenda. The City Manager believed Senator Campbell would discuss it. Mayor Naugle suggested that Mr. Cardwell contact the cities of Tampa and Orlando to make sure they were opposing the bill.

Commissioner Katz wondered how difficult it would be for the City to become its own county as Jacksonville had. Mayor Naugle agreed that would solve many problems.

Action: As discussed.

At 5:55 P.M., the meeting was recessed. It was reconvened at 8:25 P.M.

IV – City Commission Reports

1. Abandoned Dumpsters

Commissioner Katz felt something should be done about dumpsters abandoned at properties after a business closed. She thought the companies should be made to collect those dumpsters when a business closed. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that the enclosures could be locked or the companies asked to collect the dumpsters.

Action: As discussed.

2. Pooper Scooper Ordinance

Commissioner Katz had been receiving many calls about “pooper scoopers” because people were becoming less concerned about their neighbors, particularly in the Galt Ocean Mile area. Commissioner Smith thought the problem with enforcing existing regulations was that dogs had to be caught “in the act,” at least on the beach. Commissioner Katz noted that in Paris, tickets were being issued to people not cleaning up after their pets by the parking enforcement officers. She wondered if some thought could be given to that idea, particularly on the beach where parking enforcement personnel were on duty. In any case, Commissioner Katz felt the ordinance should be enforced somehow. The Police Chief said he could look into the idea of using parking enforcement personnel, but a violation had to be observed to issue a misdemeanor citation.

Mayor Naugle pointed out that New River Village had installed disposal scoopers, and some type of educational campaign might be helpful as well. Commissioner Smith understood that people walking their dogs in New York City had to be equipped to clean up after their pets, and they were ticketed if they did not have a means of doing so. Commissioner Moore agreed a violation should exist if someone was with a dog and did not have the proper device to clean up.

Mayor Naugle suggested an educational program in the Galt Ocean Mile, in particular. He noted that some of the new condominium buildings allowed dogs of any size and in any number allowed by the City, which was four. Commissioner Moore thought the best form of education was a citation. Mayor Naugle agreed there was some merit to that, but there was usually an educational process before citations were issued.

Action: As discussed.

3. Wingate Site

Commissioner Moore wanted to compliment staff on their efforts related to the Wingate Site. He reported that there had been a discussion last evening by a noted professor with regard to studying health concerns. He had spoken the truth in that there was no way to determine if the health concerns in that community could be related to the Wingate Site. In fact, he had proposed a blood study to determine the lead levels in individuals, but the health assessment he had recommended would not reveal the Site as a “smoking gun.” Commissioner Moore stated that the community would take a position on the health assessment recommended by the professor.

Commissioner Moore understood the cap on the site would be completed within the next thirty days. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that the cap was already complete, but there was drainage and sod work that would be completed within the next 45 days. Commissioner Moore was pleased that there would be some closure, although not everyone agreed with the methods used. He also reported that the community continued to support a golf course as an appropriate use of the site in the future. Mayor Naugle wondered if a control group located away from the site would be used in the proposed health assessment. Commissioner Moore stated that the study would pertain only to lead levels, if the community agreed to it. Mr. Kisela added that the next meeting of the CAC would have to be rescheduled due to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Action: None.

4. Beach Project – St. Regis Hotel

Commissioner Smith understood there had been a lot of speculation about the St. Regis project, and he had received a letter indicating that everything was on track, and building permits were to be issued shortly.

Action: None.

5. Historic Structures

Commissioner Smith said he had requested a list of the historically designated structures in Fort Lauderdale, and he understood there were many structures that could be so designated because they were a certain age. He thought that once a list had been generated, the City could be more proactive with respect to historic preservation.

Action: As discussed.

6. Federal Courthouse/South Side School Site

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the newspaper had indicated today that consideration was being given to a federal courthouse on the South Side School property. She reported there were some neighborhoods that did not want to lose Hardy Park so, if a federal courthouse was built, she felt relocation of the Park in close proximity should be a condition. Mayor Naugle agreed a tennis facility and a baseball diamond were necessary. He thought a tennis facility could be located on top of a low-rise parking structure, but as long as there was no net loss of courts in the area, it would be acceptable. Mayor Naugle also hoped the old school building could be saved.

Action: As discussed.

7. Planning & Zoning Board Meetings

Mayor Naugle asked which staff member attended Planning & Zoning Board meetings. The City Manager believed Bruce Chatterton and/or Chris Barton attended, along with Assistant City Attorney Sharon Miller. Mayor Naugle wondered if there had been any feedback in this regard because there was often a lot of history involved and staff sometimes did not have that institutional history, which made things awkward. The City Manager said he had spoken with the current Chair of the Board with regard to staffing. He explained that the Director of Construction Services had taken on some additional responsibilities, including long-range planning, and no longer could make every Board meeting. Nevertheless, he had assured the Chair that the necessary support resources would be provided.

Action: None.

8. Eller Drive PD&E Study Meeting

Mayor Naugle wondered if the City had taken any position on the Eller Drive PD&E Study since it was contiguous to the City. The City Manager did not believe so. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that staff would represent the City at the meeting.

Action: As discussed.

9. The Game Room, 1601 Northwest 6th Street

Mayor Naugle noted that he had received a Notice of Determination concerning the continuation of the non-conforming status of the Game Room at 1601 Northwest 6th Street. He wondered if Commissioner Moore intended to bring it up. Commissioner Moore wanted the use continued and asked that the subject be scheduled for consideration.

Action: Subject to be placed on the upcoming agenda.

10. Billboard on Sunrise Boulevard

Mayor Naugle asked the City Manager if he had heard anything about the billboard on Sunrise Boulevard that many people had found offensive. The City Manager had not heard anything, but he believed the billboard had been removed.

Action: None.

11. Wireless Internet Zone

Mayor Naugle reported that he had recently received a communication about a project in Jacksonville called "Wireless Internet Zone." He explained that the City of Jacksonville was the first major city to create an initiative to provide wireless Internet access at various locations around the community. He passed the information along to the City Manager. It had occurred to Mayor Naugle that this might be worthwhile along Riverwalk and the beachfront.

Action: As discussed.

V – City Manager Reports

1. Discrimination Cases

The City Manager reported that contrary to what people might read in the newspapers, the local board of the NAACP met last night for purposes of considering a response to Judge Latimer's report. It had been their intent to share those recommendations with the City Manager and the City Commission, but in an abundance of caution, Mr. McCormick had forwarded the NAACP's comments and recommendations to the national NAACP for review first.

Action: None.

III-B – Advisory Board Vacancies

See Regular Minutes, this date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

NOTE: A MECHANICAL RECORDING HAS BEEN MADE OF THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS, OF WHICH THESE MINUTES ARE A PART, AND IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.